



Phillip Slaughter, who served in the U.S. Army for 18 years, poses in his home Nov. 10, 2022, in Clarksville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Many vets are landing jobs, but the transition can be tough

By BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Phillip Slaughter left the Army after 18 years and found a job similar to one he had in uniform: behind the wheel of a truck. Instead of towing food and bullets through war zones, he hauled packages for FedEx. It wasn't what he wanted to do. The work aggravated his post-traumatic stress disorder. It would be three years and several jobs before he landed his ideal position as a sourcing recruiter for a tech company. "I think it's the first job that I've worked 10

consecutive months without quitting," said Slaughter, 41, who lives in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Slaughter is a U.S. military veteran who found a job he loves at a time when the nation is experiencing some of its lowest monthly veteran unemployment on record. But the rate — 2.7% in October — can mask the difficulty of a transition that sometimes takes years of working unfulfilling jobs, while forging a new identity and a new purpose beyond serving one's country.

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Many vets are landing jobs, but the transition can be tough

Continued from Front

"Even though (veteran unemployment) is low, I'm interested to see a survey on how many people are happy in the position they're in," said Slaughter, who also runs his own consulting firm for fellow vets.

Veterans account for about 7% of the civilian population, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Their jobless rate can help gauge the nation's efforts to assist former service members, experts say. It can also reflect on the military and how it prepares departing personnel. High veteran unemployment is not good for recruiting. For this Veterans Day, a handful of former service members talked about their experiences looking for work at a time when the veteran jobless rate is so low. For some, it was easy — but others have struggled.

Pierson Gest, a former Army infantryman, landed his first post-military job in August as a hydropower system designer in California. Gest joined up during the Great Recession, knowing he'd eventually go to school on the GI Bill. Starting college in 2017 was tough at first as he developed study habits. But he got the hang of it, earning his engineering degree in June.

"I was lucky enough to ne-



Phillip Slaughter, who served in the U.S. Army for 18 years, works in his home office Nov. 10, 2022, in Clarksville, Tenn.

Associated Press

gotiate a six-figure salary," said Gest, 37, who lives outside San Francisco. "And I definitely used and leveraged my experience in the Army to negotiate that wage on top of my college degree."

Across the country in Florida, Thomas Holmes is still searching for his ideal job. Holmes, 46, left the Air Force in 2012 after 17 years, during which he maintained parachute systems for various types of aircraft, from F-15 fighter jets to U-2 spy planes.

He said the one full-time job he's worked, in the billing and claims department of a warehouse office, was toxic. He quit after about 18 months.

Holmes used the GI Bill to earn three degrees, including a master's in sports management. He found part-time work in the industry, but rising gas prices and

the lure of more consistent hours prompted him to work at a nearby UPS store. "I've applied for many jobs — county jobs, state jobs, all sorts of things," said Holmes, who lives outside Tampa. "And then all I get is: 'Well, thanks for your service.'"

Jayla Hair's transition from Navy to civilian paralegal wasn't easy, despite a bachelor's degree in the field and skills that would seem transferable.

Hair, 30, said she applied to about 300 jobs over eight months. After seeking help from a Navy program and friends, Hair overhauled her resume and job interviews eventually came her way. But potential employers cited her lack of experience with state laws and civilian courts.

Hair took temporary jobs in the legal field and recently landed a full-time position

as a paralegal for a Fortune 500 company in the Chicago area.

"Just having my military experience was not enough," said Hair, who plans to pursue a law degree in the future. "If it wasn't for me having these temporary jobs to build my civilian resume, I don't know where I'd be right now."

Hair landed her job at a time when veteran unemployment has been mostly dropping. The annual veteran jobless rate fell steadily from 8.7% in 2010 to 3.1% in 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Last year, after a spike fueled by the coronavirus pandemic, the annual rate was 4.4%. But the seasonally adjusted monthly percentage in March was 2.4, hailed by President Joe Biden as tied for the lowest rate on record. August also hit that mark.

The tight labor market and demand for workers after the coronavirus pandemic is likely one factor for the low veteran jobless rates, said Jeffrey B. Wenger, a senior policy researcher at the Rand Corp. But so are significant efforts in recent years by the U.S. military, Department of Veterans Affairs and veteran service organizations to provide assistance to outgoing service members.

Training such as resume-writing is now mandatory and American companies

have launched initiatives to hire hundreds of thousands of vets.

Many of those undertakings grew from the Great Recession and the abundance of stressed-out service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, which "brought the veteran employment crisis to a head," Wenger said.

"And over the last 10 to 15 years, people have been putting in more and more resources and have become more and more dedicated to fixing that problem," Wenger said.

Among them is Transition Overwatch, a firm that runs career apprenticeship programs across the country. CEO Sean Ofeldt said the company zeroes in on what active service members want to do as civilians, not what they're doing or the skills they've learned in the military.

"A lot of military members don't want to keep doing what they did," said Ofeldt, a former Navy SEAL. "We train them up while they're still on active duty and then launch them into an actual career with all the support they need for that first 12 months."

But the formula for supporting veterans has to encompass more than just employment. It needs to focus on social challenges as well, said Karl Hamner, a University of Alabama education professor. □



Vice President Kamala Harris with Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough arrive at Arlington National Cemetery for the National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va., Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

By **CHRIS MEGERIAN and COLLEEN LONG**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under gray clouds and pour-

ing rain at Arlington National Cemetery, Vice President Kamala Harris told the nation's veterans Friday their work makes America

Veterans 'best of America,' VP Harris says in laying wreath

stronger, as the administration announced new support for children who live with wounded service members.

"Every day, through your life's work and your example, you make America stronger," she told the crowd. "On Veterans Day, we come together to express our profound gratitude for all you have done and you continue to do."

The initiative, known as the Hidden Helpers Coalition, helps young people who act as caregivers and was

announced by first lady Jill Biden, who hosted a breakfast for veterans on Friday before she, Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff came to the annual ceremony at the Virginia cemetery.

With President Joe Biden in Egypt for a United Nations conference on climate, it was Harris who placed the wreath in a somber ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is dedicated to deceased service members whose remains have not been

identified. She arranged it carefully, fussing a bit with the ribbons to move them back in place after they were blown askew by the wind and rain.

Harris said the nation owes soldiers a great debt, and that the Biden administration was working to deliver on help with housing, health care and jobs. She noted Jill Biden's work with the families of veterans, saying "while our veterans wore the uniform, they're not the only ones who have served." □

AP sources: US border agency leader is being forced out

By MIKE BALSAMO, COLLEEN LONG and ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is being forced out of his job leading the nation's largest law enforcement agency as agents encounter record numbers of migrants entering the U.S. from Mexico, according to two people familiar with the matter. Chris Magnus was told to resign or be fired less than a year after he was confirmed as the Biden administration's choice to lead the agency, according to two people who were briefed on the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. He is refusing to step down.

Magnus's removal is part of a larger shakeup expected at Homeland Security as it struggles to manage migrants coming from a wider range of countries, including Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua. This comes as Republicans are likely to take control of the House in January and are expected to launch investigations into the border. Migrants



U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus poses for a photograph during an interview in his office with The Associated Press, Feb. 8, 2022, in Washington

Associated Press

were stopped 2.38 million times at the Mexican border in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, up 37% from the year before. The annual total surpassed 2 million for the first time in August and is more than twice the highest level during Donald Trump's presidency, in 2019.

Brandon Judd, the president of the National Border Patrol Council, confirmed that Magnus was being pushed out.

The Los Angeles Times was first to report on the ultimatum. In a statement to the newspaper, Magnus said he was asked by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to step down or be fired. He said he wouldn't step down and defended his record. Neither Customs and Border Protection nor the Homeland Security Department responded to requests for comment.

Flows across the border

have been extraordinarily high by any measure. The numbers reflect deteriorating economic and political conditions in more countries, the relative strength of the U.S. economy and uneven enforcement of asylum restrictions. Trump-era asylum restrictions carry no legal consequences for crossing the border illegally, encouraging repeat attempts.

The Biden administration agreed with Western hemi-

sphere leaders in June to work together more on hosting migrants who flee their countries. Last month, Mexico began taking back Venezuelans who entered the U.S. illegally but measures so far have failed to produce major change.

"There have always been periods of migrant surges into this country for different reasons, at different times," Magnus told The Associated Press last year. "But I don't think anybody disputes that the numbers are high right now and that we have to work as many different strategies as possible to deal with those high numbers."

Despite decades in law enforcement, Magnus was an outsider. As the police chief in Tucson, Arizona, he rejected federal grants to collaborate on border security with the agency he now leads and kept a distance from Border Patrol leaders in a region where thousands of agents are assigned. Magnus rankled some rank-and-file agents and delighted agency critics with his announcement in May that he was revisiting guidelines for agents to pursue vehicles after a spate of fatal collisions. □

Noose found at Obama Presidential Center construction site

CHICAGO (AP) — The firm building the Obama Presidential Center suspended operations Thursday after a noose was found at the site, and it offered a \$100,000 reward to help find who was responsible.

Lakeside Alliance, a partnership of Black-owned construction firms, said it reported the incident to police and "will provide any assistance required to identify those responsible." "We have zero tolerance for any form of bias or hate on our worksite. Anti-bias training is included in our onboarding process and reiterated during site-wide meetings. We are suspending all operations onsite in order to provide another series of these

trainings and conversations for all staff and workers," the firm said.

Former President Barack Obama's foundation also released a statement.

"This shameless act of cowardice and hate is designed to get attention and divide us. Our priority is protecting the health and safety of our workforce," the statement said.

The Chicago Police Department is aware of the noose and the matter is under investigation, said Sgt. Rocco Alioto, a department spokesman.

An alliance spokeswoman, Lara Cooper, said she could not comment on whether it suspects a worker at the site and how the pause will affect the work.

City work to prepare for construction began in spring 2021 with the official groundbreaking the

following September.

The foundation has said the center is slated to open in 2025. Organizers expect it

to attract about 750,000 visitors a year.

It will sit on 19 acres (7.7 hectares) of the 540-acre (291-hectare) of Jackson Park, named for the nation's seventh president, Andrew Jackson. Significantly, it will be located near the Obama family home and where the former president started his political career on the city's South Side.

The city will own the center under the terms of a 2018 ordinance approved by the Chicago City Council. The initial cost was projected at \$500 million, but documents released by the Obama Foundation last summer showed the cost had climbed to roughly \$830 million. □



Former President Barack Obama speaks after President Joe Biden at a campaign rally for Pennsylvania's Democratic gubernatorial candidate Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Democratic Senate candidate Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Rains from Nicole douse eastern U.S. from Georgia to Canada

By REBECCA BLACKWELL
and FREIDA FRISARO
Associated Press

WILBUR-BY-THE-SEA, Fla.

(AP) — Heavy rain from the remnants of Hurricane Nicole covered the eastern United States from Georgia to the Canadian border Friday while hundreds of people on a hard-hit stretch of Florida's coast wondered when, or if, they can ever return to their homes.

Parts of otherwise intact buildings hung over cliffs of sand created by pounding waves that covered the normally wide beach in Wilbur-by-the-Sea, near where Nicole made landfall. Dozens of hotel and condominium towers as tall as 22 stories were declared uninhabitable in Daytona Beach Shores and New Smyrna Beach after seawater undercut their foundations. As waves washed over pieces of lumber and concrete blocks that once were part of homes at Wilbur-by-the-Sea, workers tried to stabilize remaining sections of land with rocks and dirt. It was too late for some, though: The front of one house laid on the sand, where it was sheared away from the rest of the structure. Restoring Daytona



Parts of homes are seen collapsing on the beach due to the storm surge by Hurricane Nicole, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, in Wilbur-By-The-Sea, Fla.

Associated Press

Beach famous for its drivable beach and surrounding beaches will likely require a major, multimillion-dollar sand renourishment project and improved seawalls to protect property, said Stephen Leatherman, director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University. "It was known worldwide for driving on the beach," said Leatherman, known as "Dr. Beach" for his annual

ranking of U.S. beaches. "They don't even have a beach to think about right now." As Nicole's leftovers pushed northward, forecasters issued multiple tornado warnings in the Carolinas, although no touchdowns were reported immediately. In south Georgia, Keith Post tried to clean up the damage at a coastal submarine museum that was submerged by floodwaters. "At one point

it was up to my knees," said Post, whose St. Marys Submarine Museum sits on the river that forms the Georgia-Florida line at the Atlantic coast. "From the front of the museum looking across to Florida, you did not see any green. It was all water." Downgraded to a depression, Nicole could dump as much as 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain over the Blue Ridge Mountains, forecasters said, and there

was a chance of flash and urban flooding as far north as New England.

Wrecks added to Atlanta's notoriously bad traffic as rain from Nicole fell across the metro area during rush hour, and a few school systems in mountainous north Georgia canceled classes. The situation was a lot worse in eastern Florida. One roughly 15-mile (24-kilometer) long area of the coast was severely eroded, with multiple seawalls destroyed. Much of the destruction was blamed on unrepaired damage from when Hurricane Ian crossed the state from west to east just six weeks earlier, killing more than 130 people and destroying thousands of homes. Volusia County officials said it wasn't clear when people might be able to sunbathe next to their cars and pickup trucks on the beaches again.

The late-season hurricane hit the Bahamas first, the first to do so since Category 5 Hurricane Dorian devastated the archipelago in 2019. For storm-weary Floridians, it was the first November hurricane to hit their shores since 1985 and only the third since record-keeping began in 1853. □

Judge halts pot dispensary licenses in parts of New York

By MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A federal judge has temporarily blocked New York from issuing recreational marijuana dispensary licenses

in Brooklyn and parts of upstate New York while a legal challenge to the state's selection process is being considered.

The preliminary injunction from U.S. District Court

Judge Gary Sharpe in Albany on Thursday comes as the state prepares to begin adult marijuana sales by the end of the year, starting with shop owners with past pot convictions or their relatives. New York lawmakers designed the state's legal market to make sure the first retailers were people directly affected drug law enforcement.

Sharpe is hearing a legal challenge from Variscite NY One, which claims the state's selection process favors New York residents over out-of-state residents in violation of constitutional interstate commerce protections.

The judge's order temporarily bars the state from issuing retail licenses for the five regions of the state

Variscite selected in its business application: Brooklyn, central New York, the Finger Lakes, the mid-Hudson region and western New York. It does not cover nine other regions of the state, including the rest of New York City. The ruling affects up to 63 of the 150 possible business licenses.

Officials at the Office of Cannabis Management said Friday its board will still consider license applications later this month for up to 150 businesses and individuals, along with applications for up to 25 nonprofit licenses.

The office remains committed to "including those impacted by the state's enforcement of cannabis prohibition in the market that we are building and we

are additionally committed to getting New York's cannabis supply chain fully operational," spokesman Freeman Klopott said in an email.

Applicants in the initial round had to demonstrate "a significant presence in New York state." While Variscite's majority stakeholder has a cannabis conviction, it was under Michigan law. And though the corporation is organized under New York law, its business principal does not meet the significant presence requirement, according to court papers.

In ruling for the company, Sharpe wrote that the state's license application requirements "will have a discriminatory effect on out-of-state residents." □



Marijuana plants for the adult recreational market hang in a drying room at a farm in Suffolk County, N.Y., on Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

World marks Armistice Day as Russia's war in Ukraine rages

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Across the world, nations paid respect with moments of silence and solemn ceremonies for their fallen soldiers in World War I and ever since on an Armistice Day pierced by the rumblings of Russia's war in Ukraine that showed again that peace is all too often elusive.

On the continent that already spawned two world wars in little over a century, casualties since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 are estimated at around 200,000 and gave any of Friday's reminiscences about the horrors of wars past a poignant ring of the present.

"Since 1918 we have marked Armistice Day and paid tribute to the brave men and women who have served to give us peace. Yet as we salute our troops this year, this peace has been shat-

tered by a Russian aggressor," U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said. "As we honor the war dead of the past, we also remember Ukraine's fight for freedom today."

The thought echoed around the globe, starting in Australia and New Zealand, where dawn came first on the anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918 truce that brought an end to the First World War.

At the heart of the Flanders Fields in western Belgium, where several of the war's bloodiest battles were fought and one huge tower was built under the motto "War Never Again," the tributes had an all too contemporary ring.

"These words sound different this year," Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said. "Today, we do not only commemorate Armistice Day, but also the brave fight of the Ukrainians for their freedom and



French President Emmanuel Macron stands at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, as part of the commemorations marking the 104th anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918 Armistice, ending World War I, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022 in Paris.

Associated Press

country."

In Australia, the "Lest we forget" phrase gold-engraved into the Moruya granite of the Sydney cenotaph towered atop wreaths and flowers that people brought.

"We must always remember the brave men and women who've defended

our nation at our time of need, who've made the ultimate sacrifice," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

Together with soldiers from New Zealand and other parts of the British Commonwealth like Canada and South Africa, Australians joined the 1914-1918

war in Europe to make it the first truly global conflict. World War I pitted the armies of France, the British empire, Russia and the U.S. against a German-led coalition that included the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires. Almost 10 million soldiers died, sometimes tens of thousands on a single day.

For decades in Europe, the return of such mass carnage seemed impossible, but the scenes from Ukraine's cities and countryside made all think again.

Armistice Day, known as Veterans Day in the U.S., was marked from the smallest cemeteries in Flanders Fields in western Belgium to the Champs Elysees in Paris and countless streets and offices beyond.

City workers at Lloyd's of London stood, almost with military rigor across six floors of their headquarters, to mark the day. □

Thousands join nationalist march on Polish Independence Day

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Tens of thousands in Warsaw marched peacefully Friday in a yearly Independence Day march organized by Polish nationalist groups that included some anti-Ukrainian and anti-European Union slogans.

The march is controversial because it's led by far-right groups and has included violence and white nationalists in past years. But many people, including some with young children, also march, seeing the event as a way to show patriotism. Many drove hundreds of kilometers to Warsaw to take part. □



Thousands of people have gathered in the city center for a yearly Independence Day march organized by nationalist groups that has been marked by violence in past years in Warsaw, Poland, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.

Associated Press



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Filipino troops, rebels forge truce after fighting kills 10

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Philippine troops forged a ceasefire with Muslim guerrillas after 10 combatants were killed in clashes in a southern village and frantic efforts were made to prevent an escalation that could threaten a major peace accord, military commanders and the rebels said Friday.

The sporadic clashes erupted Tuesday and Wednesday in Ulitán village on the island province of Basilan, where emergency talks arranged by government and rebel mediators led to an indefinite ceasefire agreement late Thursday between army forces and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebel commanders.

The clashes left three soldiers dead and 15 others wounded, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Abdurasad Sirajan said. A former rebel commander, Dan Asnawi, told The Associated Press at least seven insurgents were killed and six others were wounded.

The conflict underscored the fragility of law and order in a southern region faced with a surfeit of loose firearms, private armies, crushing poverty and a



In this handout photo provided by the Public Information Office, Western Mindanao Command, Government Peace Implementing Panel Chair David B. Diciano, center, talks with WESMINCOM acting commander Brig. Gen. Arturo Rojas, left, and Brig. Gen. Eduardo Gubat, acting commander of the Philippine Army's (PA) 6th Infantry Division, and rebel mediators during emergency talks to discuss a ceasefire at southern Basilan province, Philippines, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

long history of violence.

Government and rebel mediators were "able to stop the fighting with a dialogue between both sides," regional military commander Brig. Gen. Arturo Rojas said. "It was an unfortunate event since both sides incurred casualties."

Military and rebel commanders at the scene of the fighting accused each other of violating the 2014

peace agreement, which eased years of bloody and extensive fighting between government forces and the Muslim rebel front, the largest separatist insurgent group in the south of the largely Roman Catholic nation. Under the 2014 peace pact, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front dropped its secessionist demand in exchange for a more powerful and better-funded

Muslim autonomous region called Bangsamoro.

The five-province Muslim region, which includes Basilan, is now led by former guerrilla leaders under a transition period ending in 2025. A military crackdown against an armed extortion group in Basilan in September displaced Muslim rebels and their families from Ulitán village, where army officers accused the insur-

gents of providing sanctuary to the extortionists.

The Muslim rebels denied the allegation and returned to their village this week with their firearms, which army officials said violated the peace accord because rebel weapons could only be kept in mutually designated Muslim rebel encampments, which did not include Ulitán, a civilian village.

The rebels accused some soldiers of looting their homes, an allegation the military denied, and the arguments sparked the clashes. A security detachment to be manned by the military, police and the rebels would be established in Ulitán village to keep "lawless elements" out, Rojas said in a statement.

Nearly half of about 40,000 guerrillas have agreed to lay down their firearms and return to normal life under the peace pact. Thousands of other rebels have kept their firearms while waiting to be subjected to a years-long "decommissioning process." The process has been delayed amid complaints that former rebels have failed to receive promised cash and other incentives from the government. □

Ethiopia asserts 70% of Tigray now under military control



People walk from a rural area towards a nearby town where a food distribution operated by the Relief Society of Tigray was taking place, near the town of Agula, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on May 8, 2021.

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopia's lead negotiator in ongoing peace talks asserted Friday that 70% of the country's northern

Tigray region is now under military control and aid deliveries have resumed to the area, but there is no immediate confirmation

from aid workers or Tigray spokesmen.

National Security Adviser Redwan Hussein tweeted the information as the talks continued in neighboring Kenya, and as the United States applied pressure on Ethiopia's government to swiftly deliver aid and basic services.

The peace deal says Ethiopia will "expedite" both aid and services to the long cut-off Tigray region of more than 5 million people, where food and basic medical supplies have run low.

Redwan said 35 trucks of food and three trucks of medicine have arrived in the northwestern town of Shire, which federal forces and their allies captured

last month.

That was before last week's "permanent cessation of hostilities" in a two-year conflict estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

"Aid is flowing like no other times," Redwan said, adding that services were being reconnected and flights allowed.

The Tigray lead negotiator, Getachew Reda, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A lull in the fighting earlier this year allowed about 8,000 trucks of humanitarian aid into the region, according to the United Nations, whose experts have found that Ethiopia's government used starvation as a tool of war.

On Friday, spokespeople for the International Committee of the Red Cross and the U.N. humanitarian agency did not immediately confirm that aid trucks had arrived in Shire.

A humanitarian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said their organization had not started aid deliveries because they were still assessing the security of roads and waiting for clearances. The U.S. State Department's Bureau of African Affairs again called for aid deliveries to Tigray and the neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara, which also were affected by the conflict. □

International inflation having an impact on local economy

ORANJESTAD – During the presentation of the budget for 2023 in Parliament, minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Wever elaborated on the effect of development of international prices on the level of prices for products and services in Aruba.

An increase in prices for services and products, or inflation, is a current topic every day because of its impact on our wallet. The great dependence of Aruba on imports of products means that we import also the increases in international prices. This means that our products become more expensive, resulting in a reduction in purchasing power, according to Wever.

In the latest projections for the development of the Aruban economy, the Department of Economic Af-

fairs expects an inflation of 5.6% in 2022 and an inflation of 5.4% in 2023. This projection is based on a deep analysis of the latest national and international developments, carried out by experts from the department.

During the discussion on the 2023 budget in Parliament, minister Geoffrey Wever gave thorough explanation on the economic impact of the introduction of a BTW – Value Added Tax, VAT – compared to an increase in the rate of BBO – Tax on company turnover. Different studies carried out on request of the Government of Aruba showed that increasing the BBO with 1.0 percent will have an impact of 1.4 percent on inflation, compared to the impact of BTW, which would be between 5.3 percent to a “worst case sce-

nario” of 9.9 percent – with a VAT rate of 6% and 14%.

According to the minister, studies showed that the impact on our prices for products and services depend partially on the decision of business owners: if they remove the BBO first and based on this price (without BBO) apply the new rate. If they do not remove the BBO first and just apply the new rate, it is expected that this will result in a much higher inflation.

International development of price and the space of business owners will have an influence on the decision if the price for consumers will be adjusted. In a scenario in which the business owners do not remove the BBO first, known as the worst case scenario, the impact of BTW on inflation would be 9.9%. In the scenario where business



owners do remove the BBO first, the impact of BTW on inflation would be 5.3%. This is the range in theory, but the reality would be somewhere between that 5.3% and 9.9%. The expectation is that some business owners will remove the BBO first while others will not.

According to Wever, reality remains that the government of Aruba has expenses – including interest on debt – that need to be cov-

ered. Here the recommendation came to increase BBO with 1%. Calculations were made and these indicate that increasing BBO with 1% has a much lower inflationary effect of only 1.4% additional.

Wever said that based on these studies and the current situation, the government made the responsible and careful decision and stands behind this. □

Aruba's 69th Carnival officially begins



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's Carnival 2023 officially began yesterday, November 11th when SMAC - Official organizing body of Aruba's Carnival – presented the new jingle for this season, which was dedicated to media personality Ruben Garcia, who passed away last week.

Darren van Ommeren, president of SMAC, during a press conference said that they took the challenge this year to direct Aruba's carnival for the following two years. “As the

most active board, and one that is very energetic, we will make sure that we will have a great carnival season, which already began today”, Van Ommeren said.

Last night, the main street Caya Betico Croes in Oranjestad was filled with a festive atmosphere with the Carnival Street Party, which began with the presentation of five bands, brass-band and different DJs and carnival groups.

Representative of Stichting Musica gave a speech

thanking the people and organizations who helped in the creation of the jingle, as well as thanking Ruben Garcia who formed part of this great event.

Finally after two years without carnival celebrations because of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, this year it is expected that carnival will be something big, that will continue pushing for the economic recovery of the island.

Today the first final of the Aruba Caiso and Soca

Monarch will take place at the Centro di Bario Dakota. The performance order is as follows: Zeta Band, Tsunami, Mellow and Caribbean Band. Next week, on Saturday November 19th, they will be at the Centro di Bario Playa Pabao with Nfuzion, Sound and More, Suona, YX3M and Buleria which will close the night. Finally on the 26th of November they will be at the Centro di Bario Brazil, and the night will be inaugurated by Musical Time, Hot Ones Band, Azucar and Groove Masters. □



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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply

and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion.

With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

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ed items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

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Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to www.doit.aw

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island at Barcelo

Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation, and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **Mr. Brian & Mrs. Francine Goggin** from New Jersey, and Mrs. Carol Pedowitz from New York.

These wonderful people

stated that they love visiting the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, its white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, its picturesque sunsets, its peacefulness and beauty, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Barcelo all-inclusive presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



Author Denise de Jongh-Rekwest presented her book 'Bebe Bira Bon' to Minister Xiomara Maduro Connection with the Children's Book Festival 2022



On November 9, 2022, Minister of Culture Xiomara Maduro received a copy of the book "Bebe Bira Bon" (Drink and Get Better) from author Denise de Jongh-Rekwest.

The visit is regarding the Children's Book Festival held this week. This year's theme is 'Biba Natura-Lesa' to stimulate children to read books about nature in nature.

The book "Bebe Bira Bon" teaches children about herbal remedies usage in our culture. Through her book, children learn more about our herbs. Our older

generation knows about different healing herbs. They pass the knowledge from generation to generation. The Minister commented that she has a toronjil plant (Melissa plant) in her garden and makes tea from its leaves when she has a cold. She taught her teenage son since he was little about this herbal remedy, and now he makes tea from the toronjil leaves.

Minister Maduro thanked Denise for her book and for stimulating children to reach and appreciate our language Papiamentu. □

History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants. As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was



the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time. The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bot-

tom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps.

Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds. Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



Lack of primary school teachers presenting a challenge

IPA preparing informative evening

ORANJESTAD – Pedagogic Institute of Aruba (IPA) will be holding an Open Day next week. The Institute says that it is confronting a challenge with lack of teachers for primary school.

The Open Day will be on the 14th of November from 6pm to 9.30pm.

Berthson Boekhoudt, director of initial studies at IPA, said that during this Open Day they will give information on three types of study that they will be offering beginning on August 2023. The first is study to become a primary school teacher, the second is PDG (Pedagogical Didactic Certificate) and the third one is Master of Science of Education (MSE).

To apply to become a primary school teacher, Boekhoudt said that the candidate needs to love working with children, explaining



different subjects. They need to have a HAVO and VWO (secondary school and advanced education) diploma, and MBO level 4. Candidates in their final year of studies can apply this year to become primary school teachers.

He said that for many years they have been confront-

ing the need of having more teachers at primary schools. This is a study that they offer every year, yet the graduates barely cover the vacancies in education. "This is a sector for which currently there is a need", he said.

Boekhoudt said that this is a profession that, accord-

ing to older colleagues, used to be more respected within the community in the past. "This changed during time, and other professions came along so that people don't see [teaching] as being all that interest. But it is a profession where you will guide a whole new generation, it is a pioneer profession."

Jumira Spier, who is a course leader this year, explained that the PDG study has duration of 18 to 24 months, and attendants can become certified to give lessons in Education. During the course they cover a wide variety of content, for example, how to give lessons more actively and effectively. The successful applicant for PDG are people who have an HBO diploma, Bachelor Degree or Masters degree.

Those who are interested can go on www.ipaaruba.com to find the registration procedure. Registration for the courses will be open until the 20th of January 2023.

More information will be provided during the Open Day on the 14th of November, where people can also experience a bit of what goes in the different courses. □

In connection to the March For Our Rights on International Children's Day

Pius X School received children's rights posters

ORANJESTAD – In connection with the March For Our Rights organized to take place on the International Day for Children's Rights on the 19th of November, this week the prime minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes visited the Pius X School to deliver the first poster.

Pius X School was the first school to request a specific theme related to Article 38 of the Declaration of the Rights of Children. The Article states that a state or country must avoid that children under 15 years of age participate in activities that create animosity, and children under 15 years of age must not enter military service. "This right is very important for us as adults and parents, to ensure that children remain children", Wever-Croes emphasized. Speaking to the children of the Pius X School, the prime minister said: "We must

make sure to not put you in a situation of hate, animosity, anger and surely not in war. I am very glad that Pius X School chose this article and I understand that you guys are making preparations. I also understood that you are the first school

that requested and began preparations. Congratulations on this, and thank you to the teachers who stimulate our children with the preparation for the presentation of this theme during the day of the march and the day of presentation.

"Congratulations to the teachers. I hope you can go through the processes and learn as much as possible and teach other children as well. I hope other schools are just as excited as you and prepare like you are preparing.

"Thank you for receiving us. I bring this poster to you already, and hope that this will help you a bit with the preparations. I remain expecting to see what you will present on the 19th of November." □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Carrot's kin
 - 1 Explain away
 - 6 Tennis star
 - Rafael
 - 41 Minimum amount
 - 42 Door sign

- DOWN**
- 12 "Hello" singer
 - 13 Flat
 - 14 Sacred song
 - 15 Shortly
 - 17 Dove sound
 - 18 Poetic "always"
 - 19 Took a load off
 - 22 Parched
 - 23 Tidies up
 - 24 Unwise under-taking
 - 25 Go by
 - 27 Research site
 - 30 Outburst of violence
 - 31 Potential embryos
 - 32 Put away
 - 33 Starfleet weapon
 - 35 Competitor
 - 38 Not hidden

A	B	A	S	H	S	I	N	K	S
B	O	R	N	E	I	N	A	N	E
C	A	M	E	L	R	A	V	E	N
Y	A	L	E	D	Y	E	D		
R	O	C	K	E	R	A	S		
I	D	O	B	L	A	Z	E	R	S
C	O	M	M	A	R	E	C	A	P
A	R	M	O	I	R	E	R	I	O
A	N	T	I	G	E	N	T		
B	E	N	T	B	A	R	T		
R	A	D	A	R	B	E	A	R	S
A	R	E	N	A	E	E	R	I	E
S	P	R	A	Y	T	R	Y	M	E

Yesterday's answer

- 1 Depended
- 2 Less bumpy
- 3 Flaubert's "Madame —"
- 4 Hawaiian strings
- 5 Observa-tory feature
- 6 Catch some z's
- 7 Spots
- 8 Man of the church
- 9 Permits
- 10 Cleaner scent
- 16 Evokes
- 20 Caller's need
- 21 Calendar box
- 24 Remote
- 25 Galahad's mother
- 26 Baltic nation
- 27 Blow one's top
- 28 Reluctant
- 29 Trade
- 30 Wild
- 34 River to the Severn
- 36 Cart puller
- 37 Rent out

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1						12			
3						14			
5					16		17		
8				19	20	21			
22				23					
			24						
	25	26					27	28	29
30							31		
32					33	34			
35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

11-12

AXYDLBAAXR
IS LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

HP HQ RCQHRS PV MZHKJ

QPSVOE FGHKJSRO PGCO PV

SRNCHS MSVWRO LRO.

— DSRJRSFW JVZEKCQQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DO THE BEST YOU CAN UNTIL YOU KNOW BETTER. THEN WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER, DO BETTER. — MAYA ANGELOU

Liz Weston: What are your employee benefits really worth?

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Benefits make up more than 30% of the typical job's compensation, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But figuring out what your benefits are worth isn't always easy. You may need to do a little digging to find how much your employer contributes toward health insurance, retirement plans and other perks. Some benefits also have nonmonetary value, and people can value the same benefits in different ways.

For example, people with health conditions are likely to appreciate guaranteed access to disability or life insurance that could be hard to get or prohibitively expensive otherwise. Someone with student loans may value a program to help with education debt far more than someone without student loan debt.

Now that open enrollment season is upon us again, it's a great time to review your employer's current offerings. Understanding what your benefits are worth could renew your commitment to your current job or make you realize it's time to seek out a better deal. If you're thinking of becoming self-employed, you can better understand how much more you'll need to earn to replace your current benefits.

Here are some of the most common benefits, along with typical employer contribution amounts, according to Mercer, an employee benefits consultant.

HEALTH INSURANCE: \$5,000 TO \$20,000



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

Employer-provided health insurance plans range from bare bones to fairly extravagant. On average, though, employers paid 83% of the \$7,739 premium last year for single coverage and 73% of the \$22,221 premium for family coverage, according to KFF, a health insurance research organization. You can find what both you and your employer paid for your health insurance last year on your 2021 W-2, says Paul Fronstin, director of health benefits research at the Employee Benefit Research Institute, or EBRI. The annual figure is often reported using a "DD" code.

Your employer also may break out its contribution on your pay stub. A pay stub is a document that provides the details of your gross and after-tax pay along with various deductions. You often can access your pay stub through your company's online payroll system; ask your human

resources department for details.

Premiums are just one factor in evaluating your health care coverage, of course. Deductibles, co-pays and provider networks matter as well. Having access to different types of plans can make open enrollment more confusing, but it also can help you tailor your coverage to your situation.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN: 3% TO 10% OF SALARY

EBRI surveys have consistently found that the benefit employees value most after health insurance is access to a retirement plan, with all other benefits coming in at "a distant third," Fronstin says.

People who have workplace retirement plans such as 401(k)s are far more likely to save for retirement than those who don't, according to AARP. These plans offer automatic paycheck deductions, and many sign people up automatically as well.

Most 401(k)s also come with company matches free money that can help employees build wealth faster. Among the most common matches are 50% of the first 6% of salary the worker contributes, or a dollar-for-dollar match of 3% to 6% of pay.

Employers can contribute an even greater percentage of pay to traditional pension plans, which promise a specified monthly benefit amount in retirement.

That's in contrast to 401(k)s and other defined contribution plans, where the amounts you get in retirement depend on how much is contributed and how your investments perform.

Pensions are still common among government agencies, colleges and health care nonprofits, although only about 15% of private sector workers have access to such plans, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. □

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Feds resume study of restoring grizzlies to North Cascades

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Environmental groups on Thursday hailed a decision by the Biden administration to resume studying whether grizzly bears should be restored to the remote North Cascades mountains in Washington state. The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said they would jointly prepare an environmental impact statement on restoring the endangered bears to the North Cascades ecosystem.

Humans killed the bears off from the ecosystem long ago and restoration there will contribute to the general recovery of the endangered animals in the Northwest, the agencies said. "This overturns the Trump administration's rash termination of these plans," said Andrea Zaccardi of the Center for Biological Diversity. "Without a helping hand, grizzly bears are likely to disappear from the Pacific Northwest." But Republican U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, who represents central Washington, criticized the plan. "The introduction of grizzly bears into the North Cascades would directly, and negatively impact the people & communities I represent," Newhouse tweeted. "It is disappointing our voices are once again being ignored, even after the last process was discontinued due to overwhelming local opposition."

Newhouse said introducing an apex predator to the area would threaten families, wildlife, and livestock. The agencies began a study of restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades through a trapping and relocation process in 2015. But in 2020 the Trump administration terminated the process without explanation. The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit challenging the termination in federal court in the District of Columbia. The North Cascades is one of the largest wild areas in the lower 48 states, encompassing more than



In this July 6, 2011, photo, a grizzly bear roams near Beaver Lake in Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.

9,500 square miles (24,605 square kilometers) centered on North Cascades National Park. It also includes large areas of surrounding national forest. Other conservation groups also praised the decision. "For far too long the North Cascades have been missing an integral part of their unique ecosystem," said Kathleen Callaghy of Defenders of Wildlife. "Returning the grizzlies will finally make this incredible wilderness whole again." The environmental impact statement process will include an opportunity for public comment at four virtual public hearings between Nov. 15 and Dec. 2. "We're cautiously optimistic that this process

will lead to a decision on how to successfully restore grizzly bears to the North Cascades through sound science and robust public involvement," said Gordon Congdon, a retired fruit grower in nearby Wenatchee, Washington. The North Cascades Ecosystem is one of only two grizzly recovery areas without an established population of bears, and due to its relative distance and isolation from other zones it would not likely be repopulated from natural bear migration, environmental groups have said. "We know how to move bears successfully into new places and we know how to live with them safely," said Chris Servheen, who

retired in 2016 after 35 years as Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and continues to advocate for grizzly recovery. Under the proposal, the two agencies would capture grizzly bears in British Columbia or from the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem in the Rocky Mountains. Approximately three to seven grizzly bears would be released into the North Cascades each year over roughly five to 10 years. □



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Tsai says Irving isn't antisemitic; NBPA awaits resolution

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Suspended Brooklyn guard Kyrie Irving and the Nets appear to be on a path toward reconciliation, though it remains unclear when the seven-time All-Star will return to the court. Nets owner Joe Tsai said Friday that he and his wife Clara spent time with Irving and his family, and came away from that meeting convinced that Irving does not have antisemitic beliefs. "We spent quality time to understand each other and it's clear to me that Kyrie does not have any beliefs of hate towards Jewish people or any group," Tsai wrote.

Also Friday, the National Basketball Players Association told its members in an email that it expects the Irving situation to be resolved soon. It also thanked players for their patience and what the union described as "thoughtful comments" over the past couple weeks in regard to Irving.

"We believe the careful pause and reflection have started to pay off," the union said in the email, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving reacts in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

Press.

Irving was suspended by the Nets earlier this month for a minimum of five games, saying he was "currently unfit to be associated with the" team following his decision to tweet a link to a documentary that includes Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories about Jews and then not swiftly condemning the antisemitic tropes.

The tweet has since been deleted.

Irving has served four games of that suspension; the fifth is Saturday when the Nets visit the Los Angeles Clippers. That means the first game Irving could be eligible when the Nets play the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday. But no one has given any indication that a decision has been made regarding

when Irving a vice president of the NBPA may return. "The Nets and Kyrie, together with the NBA and NBPA, are working constructively toward a process of forgiveness, healing and education," Tsai wrote. Nets coach Jacques Vaughn spoke to reporters after practice in New York on Friday shortly before Tsai's tweet. Vaughn said there was no update on Ir-

ving's return-to-play status. The Nets were flying to Los Angeles on Friday afternoon.

Some contents of the union's email to members were first reported by ESPN. "We have maintained from the beginning, and will continue to repeat every chance we get, that Kyrie and the Players Association unequivocally condemn antisemitism and all other forms of hate," the union wrote.

It added, "We continue to make sure that Kyrie's rights, and the rights of all future players, have been protected at every turn, and look forward very soon to a resolution of all matters satisfactory to all parties."

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said he has "no doubt" that Irving is not antisemitic; those remarks were made Thursday at a conference hosted by Sports Business Journal. Silver and Irving met in New York earlier this week.

In a subsequent interview with The New York Times, Silver stressed that whether Irving is antisemitic is far from the lone issue, noting "the damage caused by the posting of hateful content." □

Click out as Astros GM 6 days after winning World Series

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Astros general manager James Click will not be given a new contract, a highly unusual move that the team announced Friday just six days after Houston won the World Series.

Click was hired from the Tampa Bay Rays before the 2020 season and appeared increasingly distant from owner Jim Crane. The 44-year-old Click did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Click said Tuesday at the general managers meetings in Las Vegas that his contract expired Oct. 31 and the situation had not been addressed. He also said that he was given little advance notice of

Wednesday's news conference, where the Astros announced that manager Dusty Baker was coming back on a one-year contract.

Crane was asked about Click's status multiple times Wednesday and said the two were in discussions. Crane also was asked how he would evaluate the job Click had done since taking over after Jeff Luhnow was fired in the wake of the team's sign-stealing scandal.

"We're going over that," Crane said. "But I think James has done a good job."

He stepped in and made some good moves. We'll sit down and see where we're going to end up with James." □

After that, Crane was asked if he thought the organization was better off now with Click at the helm: "I've run a lot of businesses. This one is no different. I'm never satisfied. If I was satisfied maybe we wouldn't be where we are. But I press everybody to get better from top to bottom ... so I'm always looking to improve and I can improve, the people on my team can improve and the players can improve. So the standard is there for everyone."

Click spent 14 years with the Rays, starting as a coordinator of baseball operations before becoming the team's director of baseball research and development and director of baseball operations. □



Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve and general manager James Click celebrate with the trophy after their 4-1 World Series win against the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 6 on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, in Houston.

Associated Press

Brady has 'zero' remorse about return, is gifted lederhosen

By **KEN MAGUIRE**

AP Sports Writer

MUNICH (AP) — Tom Brady got a full dose of Germany on Friday when he was presented with Bavarian lederhosen before being questioned about his personal life. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback responded that he doesn't feel remorse returning for another season.

"Zero, no, definitely not," Brady told a crowded news conference at a Bayern Munich facility ahead of Sunday's game against the Seattle Seahawks. "I think I returned because I felt like I wanted to compete. I spoke to the team about it, and they were excited to have me back."

Brady and Gisele Bündchen recently announced that their divorce is finalized. Brady was asked by a German reporter about on and off-field challenges and whether he felt remorse about unretiring.

"I don't really regret those types of things," the seven-time Super Bowl champion said. "I think when I commit to it, I mean it and I do my best and try to give everything I can to this particular opportunity."

Another local reporter asked about how he copes with personal and professional challenges.

"You do the best you can do every day and, yeah, that's what I've been trying to do, be the best I can



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady attends a news conference after a practice session in Munich, Germany, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.

be for my family and for my teammates," the 45-year-old said. "We all have our challenges. Life is challenging for everybody. We just do our best."

Brady later explained that he loves the daily routine of the job, as well as the victories like the 16-13 comeback win over the Los Angeles Rams last week. He's been able to play so long, he said, "because it's never really felt like work."

"It's hard for me to believe I'm still playing at this age, but I enjoy it and I love competing," Brady said. "Certainly, games like last week are reasons why we do it because there's a

thrill of victory that is hard to probably replicate at home on Xbox or something like that."

Coach Todd Bowles spoke before Brady and marveled at the size of the crowd: "I'm sure they didn't come to see me." He was right.

Early in Brady's session, an editor from German broadcaster ProSieben surprised the quarterback and everyone else when he rose from the front row to present Brady with lederhosen. "That looks nice," a gracious Brady said to Robert Salkowsky, who explained that it was specially made for Brady with Bucs and TB12 logos.

"We are very proud to have you here in Munich and want you always to have good memories when you think back to Munich," Salkowsky said.

Brady held up the lederhosen shorts with suspenders and said "How would that look going out to the game in that?"

As a team assistant took it away, Brady cracked about one of his backup quarterbacks, "Kyle Trask is going to wear that out there."

MORE MOMENTUM

The Bucs' offense has struggled all season, so Brady is hoping they can start to build some momentum.

"This is a very important game for us. We have a bye week after this. It gives you a chance to kind of evaluate where you are at, and I'd much rather evaluate being 5-5 than 4-6," he said. "We've got to win this game and it will take care of that, but Seattle is going to challenge us. They're creating a lot of sacks and turnovers."

The Seahawks (6-3) arrived in Bavaria on a four-game winning streak and atop the NFC West.

Brady is 3-0 in international games, having led the New England Patriots to victories in London (2009, '12) and Mexico City (2017). He threw for 300-plus yards each time, compiling 10 TD passes. "Playing well is playing well, it doesn't matter where you're at and which stadium, what country," he said. "For us, it's going to come down to how well we do our job."

SPECIAL VISIT

Bayern Munich's coach and some players met up with the Seahawks at Friday's practice on the soccer club's first-team campus. Speedy winger/left-back Alphonso Davies apparently mentioned he's faster than Seahawks receiver DK Metcalf but all of Canada will be pleased that they didn't line up and race. Davies is recovering from a hamstring strain and hopes to be fully fit for the World Cup. □

FIFA data project set to analyze games at World Cup

ZURICH (AP) — Huge amounts of World Cup match data will be shared with teams, media and fans in a performance analysis project outlined by FIFA on Friday.

Project leader Arsène Wenger said the quick release of statistics, graphics and video from Qatar aims to help "everyone to better understand the game." Fans and viewers can soon be experts in game metrics such as "possession control," "line breaks," "expected goals" and

"defensive line height and team length" with videos to explain them on a specialist coaching website created by FIFA.

"Enhanced football intelligence will be our blueprint for how we analyze football in the future," said Wenger, the former Arsenal manager who is now FIFA head of global soccer development.

FIFA has teamed game analysts working from a project base in Britain with data scientists and engineers analyzing the 64

World Cup games being played in Qatar.

Every match will have its own unique set of in-match and post-match enhanced football intelligence visuals presented as augmented reality and traditional graphics," FIFA said in a statement.

"These new statistics break down each area of the game into fine detail and provide operational definitions and multiple video examples to clearly define each action." □



Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal meets the media to announce the Netherlands World Cup 2022 squad, at the KNVB Campus in Zeist, Netherlands, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

Weekly SPECIALS

<p>WAS \$8.56 \$5.70 Per KG</p> <p>Sla-Vinken (Seasoned Pork)</p>	<p>WAS \$1.08 \$0.78 Each</p> <p>Corn Yellow</p>	<p>WAS \$3.40 \$1.14 Each</p> <p>Begro Veggies Assorted 450gr</p>	<p>WAS \$15.42 \$13.71 Each</p> <p>Tres Leche Ponche Crema 750ml</p>
<p>WAS \$1.31 \$6.28 Each</p> <p>Blueberries 18oz</p>	<p>WAS \$26.28 \$1.14 Each</p> <p>Mango USA</p>	<p>WAS \$6.85 \$22.85 Per KG</p> <p>Tenderloin Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$2.85 \$4.57 Per KG</p> <p>Loinribs for Stew</p>
<p>WAS \$2.85 \$2.28 Each</p> <p>Lay's Max Assorted 185gr</p>	<p>WAS \$10.62 \$7.99 Each</p> <p>EE Quick 1 Minute Oats Whole Grain 42oz</p>	<p>WAS \$2.28 \$1.77 Each</p> <p>Gwoon Krenten 250gr</p>	<p>WAS \$5.02 \$4.28 Each</p> <p>Pace Sauce Picante Mild 24oz</p>
<p>WAS \$4.34 \$3.54 Each</p> <p>Nestle Coffee Mate Liquid Hazelnut Creamer 16oz</p>	<p>WAS \$11.42 \$10.28 Each</p> <p>Nestle Nesquik Instant Chocolate/strawberry 38.09oz</p>	<p>WAS \$6.85 \$5.99 Each</p> <p>Pillsbury Pie Crust 14.1oz</p>	<p>WAS \$4.85 \$3.14 Each</p> <p>Lamb Weston Ziggy Fries 750gr</p>
<p>WAS \$6.85 \$5.71 Each</p> <p>Irish Spring Moisture Blast 20oz</p>	<p>WAS \$3.77 \$2.62 Each</p> <p>EE Reclosable Bag Quart 24ct</p>	<p>WAS \$2.11 \$1.71 100 GR</p> <p>Hard Salami</p>	<p>WAS \$1.54 \$1.14 100 GR</p> <p>American White Cheese</p>

DAIRY/FROZEN

HBC/GM

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